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State Department review completed

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25X1

27 June 1973

Central Intelligence Bulletin

CONTENTS

25X1

INDIA: Government plans to buy more grain from
US. (Page 5)

25X1

FOR THE RECORD: (Page 8)

25X1

Next 3 Page(s) In Document Exempt

INDIA: The Minister of Agriculture told the US ambassador last week that the government plans to buy 4 million tons of wheat and sorghum in the US during the year ending in March 1974. [REDACTED]

25X1
25X1

[REDACTED] So far, however, actual purchases have been limited in the hope that prices for grain might drop or that the US or Canada might offer food aid. Officials responsible for food-grain distribution in India are very concerned about the tight food situation that will occur during September and October before the fall grain harvest.

India's production of spring wheat this year is now estimated at 25 to 26 million tons, compared with 26.5 million tons last year. The crop in the Punjab, a leading wheat producing state, will probably be down by 20-25 percent, and total government procurement of wheat is unlikely to exceed last year's level, despite nationalization of the grain trade on 1 April.

The size of the fall harvest, mostly rice and other grains, will depend to a large extent on the current monsoon. During its first two weeks, the monsoon brought normal rainfall but weakened during the third week, particularly in the central and southeastern parts of the country that were hardest hit by the recent drought. [REDACTED]

25X1

27 Jun 73

Central Intelligence Bulletin

5

25X1

Next 1 Page(s) In Document Exempt

FOR THE RECORD*

International Monetary Developments: The dollar retreated sharply in Europe again yesterday, following announcement of a renewed US trade deficit in May. The dollar had shown early strength despite the resumption of the Watergate hearings.

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Guyana: Racially inspired campaign disorders cost the lives of at least six persons, including two police officers on 24 and 25 June. Further violence is likely before the parliamentary election on 16 July.

25X1

**These items were prepared by CIA without consultation with the Departments of State and Defense.*

27 Jun 73

Central Intelligence Bulletin

8

25X1

25X1

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